

2013 Accomplishments



Jefferson County Board of Commissioners

The year 2013 was a busy and productive year for the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), made up of Donald Rosier, Faye Griffin and Casey Tighe. They increased opportunities for citizens to interact with their county government, fine-tuned county operations, looked for ways to provide quality services and laid the groundwork for more innovations and improvements in the coming year.

Increased Communication

An all-new county website was launched in June. It has a content management system with a robust search capability, enabling users to find what they are looking for quickly and effectively. Comprehensive training of content contributors in all county departments and division allows them to make updates daily, giving the public access to an unprecedented amount of county information. The county also made use of technologies like Twitter and Facebook, which proved particularly useful during forest fires and the September floods.

Reaching out to more residents and businesses than ever before, the BCC held six telephone town hall meetings on the topic of county services and the budget, transportation and flood recovery. Telephone invitations were sent simultaneously by a vendor to up to 100,000 randomly selected residents for each town hall. This highly successful means of two-way communication with citizens is a marked improvement over 2011 when the last series of three in-person town hall meetings in different parts of the county brought in only 135 residents.

To celebrate the grand opening of the West Rail line and the Jefferson County Government Center/Golden station, the BCC joined the Regional Transportation District and hosted two days of ribbon cuttings and public tours. A reported 10,000 people arrived at the Jeffco station for the opening day festivities

Money Management

After numerous public meetings, the BCC adopted a \$481.2 million budget for 2014 that shows a 2.8 percent increase from the previous year. The mill levy of 25.846 contains a temporary reduction of .132 mills.

Both the proposed and adopted budgets were posted online to give the public additional opportunities to review the documents and provide feedback. The county received a national distinguished budget award for the 2013 budget.

The Risk Management program continued to reduce costs by working to eliminate or reduce insurance needs saving thousands of dollars for future years.

Saving Millions Through Refunding Bonds & COPs

The BCC refunded a series of the county's Open Space sales tax revenue bonds and a series of certificates of participation (COPs) that will bring big savings. The Open Space bonds were used to buy property for public open space uses and the COPs funded capital improvements including upgrades to the sheriff's detention facility and energy saving lighting and solar panels for several facilities. The net present value savings of the Open Space refunding was \$1.073 million and the COPs was an estimated net present value savings of \$1.578 million over the current series.

Purchasing Savings and Audit Results

Through competitive bidding, cost leveraging, negotiations, and purchasing methods, approximately \$9 million was saved in 2013. The independent auditing firm gave the county an unmodified opinion on its 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) – the highest that can be received.

Planning and Zoning Applications Streamlined

Much time was spent by the commissioners on improvements to Planning and Zoning processes and procedures.

Mixed Use Zone Created

The newly adopted mixed-use zone district is as an optional, less time-consuming alternative to the standard commercial zone districts, which don't allow residential uses, and the Planned Developments (PD) zone uses that are often costly. The new zone contains alternatives to typical development standards, such as "build-to lines"



Telephone Town Hall



Light Rail Grand Opening



Mixed Use In Jeffco

versus setbacks, and allows parking to be shared among uses that have different demand times versus requiring each use to provide the full number of parking spaces.

Chickens and Bees Allowed

The BCC added a new zoning regulation that allows keeping chickens and bees for eggs, meat and honey on residential property in unincorporated Jeffco.

Consolidated “Like” Zone Districts

The BCC consolidated “like” zone districts for residential uses, which reduces redundancy and makes the resolution more concise. It did away with the Restricted Commercial (RC) zone district, changing all such properties to Commercial One (C-1).

Updated Park and School Requirements

A fee schedule was created in the zoning resolution so developers no longer have to go through a complicated system to determine park and school fees for a development. They can now calculate fees earlier in the process and have flexibility for when fees are paid. It clarifies the types of land that may qualify for dedication credit to offset the fees; requires residential developments to provide open areas and amenities prior to qualifying for a land dedication credit and adds an appeal process for developers who believe the fee schedule is not consistent with the fair market value of property. The changes also clarify the county’s authority to require a development to be included in local park and recreation district boundaries.

Water Supply and Flood Plain Regulations

The BCC adopted updates to the water and wastewater supply regulations, as state statutes require that the sufficiency of water quantity and dependability must be evaluated in the development process. To help evaluate this, a GIS-based water availability analysis was completed by county staff. This reduces the burden on applicants and provides more consistent data for the water analysis, which benefits applicants and citizens alike.

After working with Planning and Zoning and other county staff, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Colorado Water Conservation Board, stakeholders and citizens, the BCC also updated regulations that comply with the state and clarify for residents the requirements necessary to develop land located in a FEMA 100-year floodplain.

Flood Insurance Rating Equals Savings for Citizens

For unincorporated residents to receive a discount on their flood insurance, the county voluntarily participated in FEMA’s Community Rating System program. It requires an Insurance Services Office (ISO) and FEMA audit of the floodplain management program.



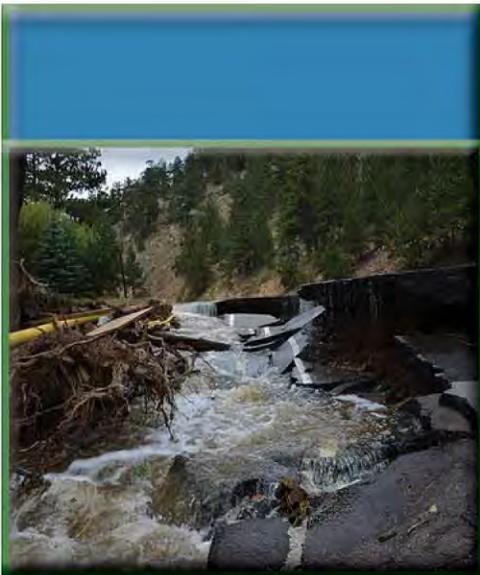
Chickens and Bees Now Allowed



Park and School Fee Schedule



Updates Approved to Water Supply Regs



Flooding in Coal Creek Canyon



Construction on NEAT Trail



Biking in Jeffco

The comprehensive approach to floodplain management includes regulations, public outreach and annual reporting. Jeffco is currently the highest rated county in Colorado and, based on the rating, residents save approximately \$70,000 annually on all flood insurance premiums.

Water Came Tumbling Down

Thousands of individuals were impacted by the devastating effects of torrential rains in September. The Sheriff’s Office and Road & Bridge Division and many county divisions swung into action, along with community organizations and state and federal agencies. Hardest hit by the record rains and high waters were Coal Creek Canyon in the north and the Upper Bear Creek/Evergreen. The commissioners appointed a flood recovery coordinator who brought together numerous federal, state and local resources to help get help to residents. As the waters receded, they continued to work 12-hour shifts night and day to repair the extensively damaged roads as quickly as possible. The Transportation & Engineering division provided engineering support for the rebuilding and staff from many county divisions including Planning & Zoning, the Sheriff’s Office, and Building Services worked long and stressful hours to keep citizens safe and help them recover and rebuild.

Transportation Improvements

Enhancing transportation options for Jeffco residents continued to be a priority for the BCC. With almost 80 percent of the beltway around the Denver metro area open to traffic via C-470, E-470 and the Northwest Parkway, a Western Beltway Connector Study called WestConnect was created to develop a coordinated plan to complete the missing portion. To move this project forward, the commissioners continued working with partner governments Arvada and Broomfield as well as the Colorado Department of Transportation and its High Performance Transportation Enterprise, the Regional Transportation District and the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

Cars, Bikes and Pedestrians

The last segment of the NEAT (North Evergreen Activity Trail) was completed along with complimenting sidewalk segments that connect the NEAT trail to the Bergen Parkway sidewalk. The sidewalk on the north side of CR-65 from the roundabout to SH-74 was finished as were connections along Ute Avenue and Garrison Street that connect

residential neighborhoods to Falcon Bluffs Middle School, Deer Creek Pool, and C-470 regional trail. Work on Chatfield Avenue from Ken Caryl Avenue to South Garrison Street continued with additional turn lanes, median enhancements, and provision of missing segments of sidewalk. Work is underway on Golden Road at Lena Gulch, to replace the bridge and associated roadway improvements.

Best Building Safety Team is Even Better

The commissioners congratulated Jeffco's Building Safety Division, which is the second largest building department in the U.S. to achieve 100 percent professional certification. Becoming certified demonstrates a commitment to public safety, diverse knowledge of construction safety codes and a high level of self-initiative.

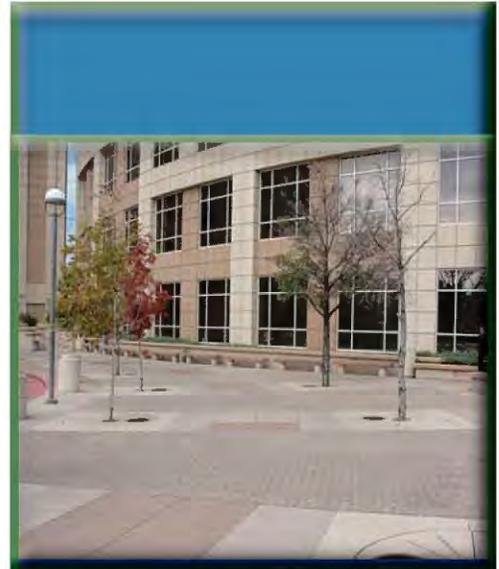
333,000 Library Card Holders

More than 330,000 Jefferson County residents -- 61 percent of the total county population -- now have Jeffco public library cards. Visits, both in the library and online, are expected to reach 8.9 million for the year, or more than 740,000 per month. Patrons are expected to borrow more than 7.7 million items, or the equivalent of 14 items a year for every Jeffco resident. The 2013 accomplishments include updates to materials, a redesigned website, staffing changes to increase emphasis on patron service and interactions; and enhanced training to equip staff to navigate the increasingly complex world of information and technology.

Facility Fixes

County Entrance Gets a Facelift

After 21 years of high foot traffic, freeze and thaw cycles and snow removal, the commissioners authorized a capital project to redo the front entrance of the Administration and Courts Facility, replacing paver stones and concrete stairs, removing overgrown and dying trees, adding concrete planter boxes, security bollards and lighting to improve traffic flow through the plaza. Visitors are now greeted with a safe and inviting entrance to county and court services. They also had the traffic circle redone to increase traffic safety.



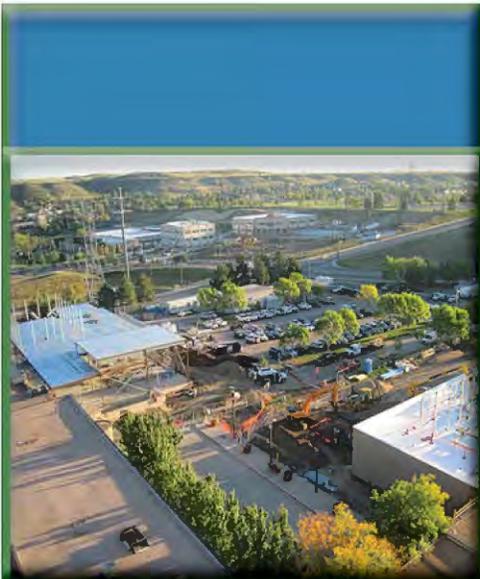
Jeffco Plaza Before



Jeffco Plaza During Construction



Jeffco Plaza After



Detention Center Construction

Sheriff's Detention Center Expansion & Remodel

The commissioners authorized the expansion and remodel of the Sheriff's facility, scheduled for completion in July 2014. It includes the central plant, crime lab, accreditation and administration areas, the entry lobby which will include video visitation stations and inmate processing, and two additional inmate exercise yards.

New Home for the Health Department on Parfet St.

To consolidate several Public Health facilities into one building, the commissioners had purchased the 55,000 square foot building at 645 Parfet Street in Lakewood in 2011. All Public Health personnel from the Lakewood facility and the Climax building in Golden, and several from the Arvada Health Building are moving into this new Public Health home in early 2014. Both the Lakewood and Climax Buildings were sold as part of this cost-saving, consolidation project.



Flower at North Table Mountain Park

Parks

The commissioners helped celebrate the 40th anniversary of the voter-approved Jeffco Open Space sales tax and nationally recognized land conservation program, a spring "Party for Parks" also honored collaborative partners Great Outdoors Colorado on its 20th anniversary and Denver Mountain Parks on its centennial. The 20th anniversary festivities raised nearly \$100,000 for the Jeffco Outdoors Foundation to connect youth and families to nature.

Jeffco Open Space dedicated efforts toward public engagement regarding trailhead construction projects at Crown Hill Park, Apex Park, the 2013 Master Plan Update, and September Flood Recovery efforts by employing public meetings, surveys, presentations, online information sheets and other communication tools.



Pine Valley Ranch Park

The Baehrden historic building at Pine Valley Ranch Park was opened to the public through guided tours during the summer months. Readying the 1927 lodge for public access involved extensive restoration of the great room, dining room and porch of this elaborate structure designed by J.J.B. Benedict in the rustic Colorado Alpine architecture.

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

New events and popular annual events bolstered overall attendance and finance figures for the multipurpose Fairgrounds complex in 2013, largely due to increases in campground usage and efficiencies across all operations. More than 425,000 guests were drawn to the

Fairgrounds in 2013. The Fairgrounds also was an evacuation site for more than 200 animals from the September flooding in Colorado.

CSU Extension

The commissioners were very involved with the 4-H programs this year, helping the kids with their livestock and projects, participating in promotional videos and supporting the program. A highlight of the 4-H events at the Jefferson County Fair was the Celebrity Livestock Show. The commissioners were among the celebrities trained to show animals by the 4-H youth.

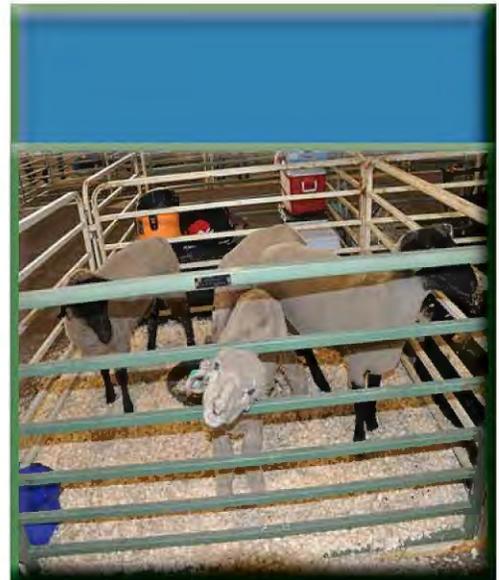
Grant awards were secured to assist the 4-H programs including for the 4-H ENOR environmental discovery day camps and one for the 4-H Youth and Families with Promise mentor program in three county schools.

Human Services' Awards and Recognitions

The BCC spent many hours involved in the Human Services programs that serve county residents. The county's second largest department with nearly 700 employees, Human Services received a Denver Regional Council on Governments "Planning with a Vision" award, and a marketing award for its annual report. The Child Welfare division received a Colorado Department of Human Services' award for Best Practices.

Among the accomplishments:

- Sixty-five children found their forever families through adoption.
- More than 9,500 reports of child abuse and/or neglect were triaged.
- The Head Start program helped 475 economically disadvantaged children be better prepared for school.
- Child Support Services collected more than \$31.4 million (three percent increase from 2012) in child support payments while serving almost 16,000 families and 23,000 children.
- Colorado Works Employment Retention Program helped 83 percent of its customers remain employed with 21 percent receiving promotions.
- Customers applying for Food Assistance and Medicaid received those benefits on the same day they applied for the first time ever, with more than 95 percent receiving their benefits within 12.5 days.



4-H Livestock at the County Fair



4-H Kids Competing



Head Start School Children



Fatherhood Program Helping Dads

- The Fatherhood Program helped 508 fathers and mothers with parenting skills and other resources.
- More than 2,500 veterans and their dependents were served and 140 claims submitted resulting in benefits for those veterans.
- Adult Protective Services responded to 931 reports of abuse, neglect and/or financial exploitation of adults at risk and the Workforce Center helped 20,225 job seekers and businesses.
- More than 119,000 community service hours were completed with a value to the community of \$1.4 million
- The Human Services Fraud & Investigations employees established \$298,000 in fraud claims and disqualified 59 individuals resulting in a savings of \$1.16 million.
- Using volunteer mediators, Mediation handled more than 2,000 cases valued at more than \$250,000 -- saving county resources as well as personal tax dollars for residents.



Human Services' Offices

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Inside the Administrative and Courts



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